

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080430

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

FOLLOWING REPEATS TEHRAN 2948 ACTION DEPT INFO GENEVA APR 2ND

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2948

FOR NEA LABOR ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IR, SREF

SUBJ: GOI PLANS TO RETRAIN AND INTEGRATE KURDISH REFUGEES

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON LABOR MINISTER AMIR GHASSEM MOINI TO INTRODUCE NEA LABOR ADVISOR RICHARD SEARING, DISCUSSION AT ONE POINT TOUCHED ON STATUS OF IRAQI KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN IN CONTEXT OF THEIR POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO IRAN'S MANPOWER NEEDS. UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR FOR PLANS NASSERI COMMENTED THAT UP UNTIL ALGIERS SETTLEMENT, IRAQI KURDISH REFUGEE POPULATION HAD CONSISTED 95 PERCENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. MINISTRY OF LABOR HAD SET UP PROGRAMS IN CAMPS INCLUDING ISSUANCE OF SIMPLE LOOMS TO WOMEN AND EXCURSIONS FOR THE CHILDREN. NASSERI CLEARLY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE IRAQI KURDISH REFUGEES WOULD CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING IN TERMS OF USEABLE SKILLS TO IRANIAN ECONOMY AND CONSTITUTED QTE

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NET SOCIAL COST UNQUOTE. UNDERSECRETARY FOR MANPOWER FARZANEH,

WHILE AGREEING WITH NASSERI THAT AT PRESENT THE IRAQI KURDISH REFUGEES WERE AN ECONOMIC LIABILITY, SAID THAT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT TO IRANIANS EXPELLED FROM IRAQ OVER

PAST TWO YEARS COULD SERVE AS MODEL FOR SIMILAR TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR IRAQI KURDS, PARTICULARLY IN HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES.

FARZANEH MENTIONED THAT THE IRANIANS DISPLACED FROM IRAQ HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RELOCATED IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE CAMPS ORIGINALLY SET UP IN WESTERN IRAN. (EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT FROM THESE REMARKS THAT GOVERNMENT OF IRAN HAS BEGUN TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO INTEGRATING IRAQI KURDS, WHOSE NUMBERS ARE BEING SWELLED BY FORMER PISH MERGAH FIGHTERS NOW JOINING THEIR DEPENDENTS, INTO IRANIAN ECONOMY. FARZANEH MENTIONED THAT SURVEY WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN NEAR FUTURE TO TABULATE SKILLS REPRESENTED BY MORE EDUCATED ELEMENTS.)

2. MESSRS MOINI, FARZANEH, AND NASSERI SILENTLY ASSENTED TO MR SEARING'S REMARK, BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN LEBANON WITH PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS, THAT SUCH CAMPS WHICH DID NOT PROVIDE MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD AND LACKED FACILITIES TO OVERCOME BOREDOM WERE POTENTIAL BREEDING GROUNDS FOR DISSATISFACTION AND DISSIDENCE.
HELMs UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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